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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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### (54) Apparatus and method for discovering active devices using IP

(57) Active devices can be discovered in ARP tables from routers on the network. Pings can then be sent to the active devices for verification, or pings can be sent to devices at other addresses on the network. Devices can also be discovered by sending a batch of pings (204) to addresses on the network and monitoring re-

sponses from those addresses over an interval. After the interval elapses, another batch of pings can be sent (214). The devices can be discovered by a host on the network or by a network manager. The network manager can add the discovered devices to a network topology database.

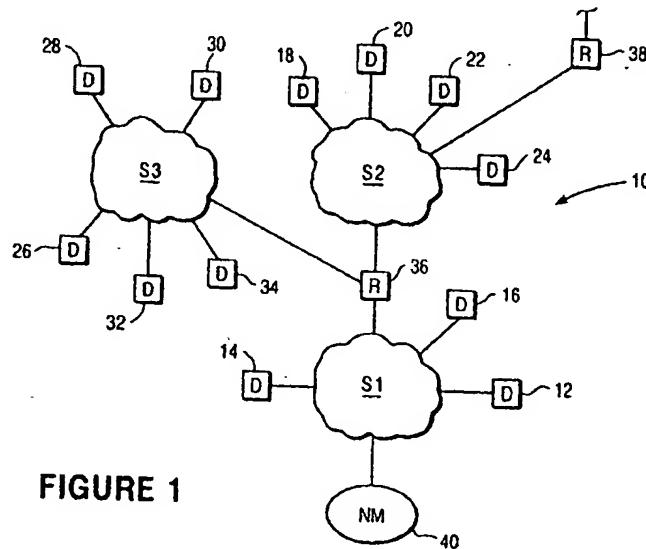


FIGURE 1



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 30 2847

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)						
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
X	EP 0 455 402 A (HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY) 6 November 1991 (1991-11-06)	1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16-19	H04L29/06 H04L12/56						
A	* column 5, line 38 - column 11, line 34 *	5, 15							
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)						
			H04L						
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>19 December 2000</td> <td>Behringer, L.V.</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	19 December 2000	Behringer, L.V.
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THE HAGUE	19 December 2000	Behringer, L.V.							
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document							
<small>EPO FORM 1503 05/82 (P4/C01)</small>									
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ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 97 30 2847

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82